



Schools at Somerhill Curriculum Policy

Last Revised : **September 2010**
Next Revision : **September 2012**

Please also refer to the documents 'Somerhill Pre-Prep, EYFS Policy' and 'Somerhill Pre-Prep Operational Plan for Years 1 and 2'.

The prime aim of the Curriculum is to provide full time supervised education for pupils aged rising 3s to 13, in the case of boys, and 11 in the case of girls, which gives pupils experience in linguistic, mathematical, scientific, technological, PSHE, physical and aesthetic and creative education. pursue high individual achievement. The core skills of speaking and listening, literacy and numeracy are emphasised. The principal language of instruction is English. We also emphasise achievement in its broadest sense - whether pupils are studying academic subjects, sport, music, drama or art, developing a sensitivity to other people and the environment, gaining knowledge and skills for adult life, or developing responsibility and confidence to make informed decisions about their lives. We aim to challenge our pupils and give them opportunities for independent learning through a broad and balanced curriculum. The school develops the individual and prepares pupils for the next stages of education and beyond.

Our curriculum aims to:

- be balanced and broadly based
- provide equal access and opportunity
- ensure progression and continuity
- provide appropriate differentiated support for pupils including those with Special Educational Needs, including statemented children, both for the less able and the gifted and talented.

Please also see the Schemes of Work for PSHE for each of the schools.

Subjects

Over their time at our schools, the pupils will study the following academic subjects.

English
Mathematics
Science
French

[These core subjects jointly take up approximately half of the children's curriculum time.]

History
Geography
Religious Studies

The following non-academic subjects are also studied.

Music
Art
Information and Communication Technology
Physical Education
PSHE (not in Yardley Court Year 8CE)
Drama
Games

As the schools do not have the facilities to deliver Design Technology as a separate subject, practical design and three-dimensional work is covered within the Art programme.

Latin (Yardley Court only, from Year 5)
Spanish (Yardley Court Scholarship group only)

Yardley Court

There are separate Departmental Handbooks available to all teaching staff. They cover the full range of the curriculum and include the aims of all academic and non-academic subjects, resources, teaching strategies and pupil activities. Departmental Handbooks contain planning and schemes of work for all teaching within each department. As a rule, individual teachers are responsible for the production of their own schemes of work in consultation with the Heads of Department.

Delivery of the curriculum in Yardley Court is Form based in Years 3 and 4 in Form Rooms, with the exception of subjects requiring specialist accommodation. From Year 5 onwards, the pupils receive teaching from subject specialists and move each period to the relevant teaching rooms.

Please note that Careers Guidance is given as part of the PSHE programme for those children receiving secondary education at various points but especially under the topic of Earning and Finance particularly in Year 7. Study skills for this and future schools are also covered.

Examinations

Children are carefully prepared for the Kent 11+ Tests and entry examinations to individual schools, including Common Entrance and Scholarship, as appropriate. The schools also run internal examinations and NFER Testing.

Teaching takes into account the following examinations, depending on the route a boy is taking.

Year 8: 13+ Common Entrance Exams

Mock CE exams (including French Orals) are held in October and March of the academic year. (Exam papers are purchased from The Independent Schools Examination Board). The CE exams are held in June and scripts are sent directly to the Senior School for marking (except those whose Senior Schools do not require CE entry and they are marked internally by the subject teachers, results normally being forwarded to next schools in case helpful). Results of the CE exams are sent to us within a week of the exams.

French CE Orals are usually held in the second week in May.

Year 6: 11+ Entrance Exams

In our area, no schools use the Common Entrance 11+ examinations, so these are rarely set as full mocks. It is more common for schools to set their own entrance examinations. These papers are sent directly to the Senior School for marking. Preparation specific to each school is given to individual boys as required.

Kent 11+ Tests

A significant number of our pupils sit the Kent 11+ tests for admission to Grammar Schools. These usually take place in September, and our pupils receive appropriate preparation in Verbal Reasoning, Non-Verbal Reasoning and Mathematics.

Other External Exam and Scholarship Examinations

These could be 11+, 12+ or 13+ entry exams, continuation scholarship or scholarship exams. Details of these are available from the Director of Studies who has responsibility for making sure individual examination information is available to teaching staff. Appropriate mock examinations take place at the normal times where possible.

Full School exams are held in the Summer term for all classes from Year 3 to Year 8 (excluding those who have taken CE and scholarship exams).

Derwent Lodge

Delivery of the curriculum is primarily form based from Years 3 to 6 with a certain amount of movement to specialist teaching and rooms.

The girls are set in mathematics in Year 3, the rest of the curriculum is delivered in a mixed ability setting.

Curriculum co-ordinators are responsible for schemes of work, policies, annual curriculum audits, teaching strategies, pupil activities, resources and budgets for each subject. They also organise and undertake peer observation, monitor the marking of work and arrange subject meetings where appropriate.

Examinations

Year 6: 11+ Entrance and Scholarship Exams

In our area, a few schools use the Common Entrance 11+ examinations. These papers are sent directly to the Senior School for marking. Other schools set their own entry exams, and the girls also sit scholarship examinations for individual schools where appropriate. Preparation specific to each school is given to individual girls as required.

Kent 11+ Tests

A significant number of our pupils sit the Kent 11+ tests for admission to Grammar Schools. These take place in September, and our pupils receive appropriate preparation in Verbal Reasoning, Non-Verbal Reasoning and Mathematics.

Other internal examinations and assessments

These are set out in the '**Somerhill Assessment and Record Keeping Policy**'

Somerhill Pre-Prep

Delivery of the curriculum is primarily Form based throughout the school with a certain amount of movement to specialist teaching and rooms.

The Early Years Foundation Stage follow the documentation Every Child Matters. In Reception the Early Years Pupil Profile is completed. Years 1 and 2 follow the National Curriculum.

In the Summer of Year 2 the children take the Key Stage 1 SATS tests.